Boycott/

From B1

particularly a large one, is a very difficult if not impossible task," said Rich Grant of the Denver convention bureau. "It simply is too complex to try and rearrange a conference with a thousand people or more. But what is concerning me is that we are occasionally getting inquiries about the amendment."

Added Kristen Bricker, spokeswoman for the Colorado Springs convention bureau: "What the unknown is right now is whether groups will simply not consider the state as a possible site."

That's pretty much what the demands for boycotts have been aiming at, which makes it hard to determine its long-term effect.

For example, the Atlanta City Council's ban on spending tax money on travel to Colorado is not expected to disrupt contacts between the U.S. Olympic Committee here and planners for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

"We were planning to go to them," said Tom Wilkinson, a USOC official in Colorado Springs. "There were no plans for Atlanta officials to visit the facility here and the private group organizing the Olympics hasn't informed us of any changing (of their) travel plans."

But the Atlanta ban could hurt because city officials are urging other city councils to pass similar ordinances. New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Boston have expressed interest of complying, an Atlanta official said.

Calls for boycotts also are growing within Colorado. On Wednesday, on the west steps of the state Capitol in Denver, a group calling itself Boycott Colorado held a makeshift press conference to announce it will push for a national boycott.

The group president, Terry Schleder, said it represented more than 1,000 supporters across the state. Schleder said other groups are putting together a list of "good and bad businesses," and Boycott Colorado will send the list to national organizations in order to boycott the businesses who supported Amendment 2.

Locally, members and supporters of the local gay and lesbian community met to discuss what strategies to take against Amendment 2, but no details were available about the meeting.

Oddly enough, Colorado Springs — where voters approved the amendment — has felt little if any effect from the boycott demands, while Aspen and Denver — where voters rejected it — have already been impacted. While Colorado Springs officials say it really hasn't been an issue, Aspen officials said they have been "besieged" by calls, said Aspen Mayor John Bennett.

"We have gone into a counter-attack mode," he said. "We are calling every group that has called for protest and explaining that Colorado Springs is on the other side of the state, both physically and philosophically."

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UPDATE

11/20/92

Tourism, convention officials weigh effect of boycott movement

By **Louis Aguilar**
Gazette Telegraph

The national and statewide cry to boycott Colorado in response to the passage of the anti-gay rights Amendment 2 is off to an erratic start, but appears to be gaining momentum.

The latest demand came from actress Barbra Streisand, who urged fellow entertainers to boycott Colorado.

"There are plenty of us who love the mountains and rivers of that truly beautiful state, but we must now say clearly that the moral climate there is no longer acceptable, and if we're asked to, we must refuse to play where they discriminate," she said Wednesday night at a gala AIDS benefit in Los Angeles.

Both supporters and critics of Amendment 2, as well as tourism and convention officials across the state, say it is too early to tell if the controversy will take a severe bite out of Colorado's tourism and convention business.

Thus far, the largest cancellation has come from a national group of women trade unionists that would have brought 1,500 visitors to Denver and would have generated an estimated $3 million in tourist money.

But independent calls for a boycott seem to grow daily, and gay and lesbian supporters statewide say they are organizing to target individual businesses who support Amendment 2.

The amendment repeals local ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, and bans the passage of similar laws. Denver, Boulder and Aspen had passed such ordinances.

The creators of Amendment 2, the Colorado Springs-based Colorado for Family Values, countered that boycotting could "be a double-edged sword", said spokesman Kevin Tebedo.

"It's really too bad that some militant homosexual groups can't respect what the majority of the people voted for in this state," Tebedo said. "Based on the huge number of phone calls we have received, there are plenty of our supporters who would be happy to take their place on the slopes and in hotels."

Tebedo said Colorado for Family Values is acting as sort of a "national information base" for others outside Colorado requesting information on Amendment 2.

So far it's Amendment 2 critics who are urging people to protest through their pocketbooks. But widespread convention cancellations seem unlikely.

"To cancel a convention,

See **BOYCOTT**/B5

connection, they can talk as freely as if they were in the same courtroom.

With the system, the inmates never leave the jail.

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Department estimates that 6,500 inmates annually will be advised of their rights through the system. An estimated 5,974 worker hours of detention officers — at $9.54 an hour — will be saved annually, according to Lt. Richard Oreskey, project manager for the system with the Sheriff's Department.

The inmates sit in a "studio" on the second floor of the jail during the proceedings. In turn, faster," said Municipal Judge Joe Ulibarri.

"We spend maybe 15 minutes advising prisoners. It used to take me at least an hour to go there and back."

Other judges also have welcomed the system.

"The first time I did the advisements, there was a hearing-impaired female inmate, and I was concerned about her ability to understand the proceedings," said County Judge David Cole. "They just zoomed the camera in on me and she was able to read my lips just fine — probably better than if she was in a courtroom."

Some parents oppose plan for year-round schools

Associated Press

CASTLE ROCK — A proposal to convert Douglas County schools to year-round schedules and to transfer students to less-crowded schools outside their neighborhoods has been challenged by some parents.

The issue arose at a meeting of the Douglas County school board Tuesday in which creative school scheduling was proposed in an attempt to counter the rejection by voters of an $87 million bond issue in October.

"In this time and age when families need to be strengthened, this could destroy them," said Parker parent Jan Hockenberry, who urged the board to explore alternatives to a four-track, 12-month schedule.

Hockenberry and other parents at the meeting conceded scheduling changes are needed. But most of the 150 parents at the meeting urged the board to reconsider boundary shifts that would require their children to change schools.

Many of the parents contributed detailed plans on how to avoid splitting their neighborhoods and sending their children to less-crowded schools. Some even recommended a moratorium on growth in Highlands Ranch, the state's fastest-growing subdivision, until the school district resolves its financial problems.

The board is reviewing options presented by a long-range planning committee of 22 Douglas County residents.

Last week the committee met with more than 1,300 parents while drawing up new plans to ease overcrowding. The proposals include converting nearly all the county's elementary schools to a year-round schedule in 1993.

Inmate walks away from prison camp